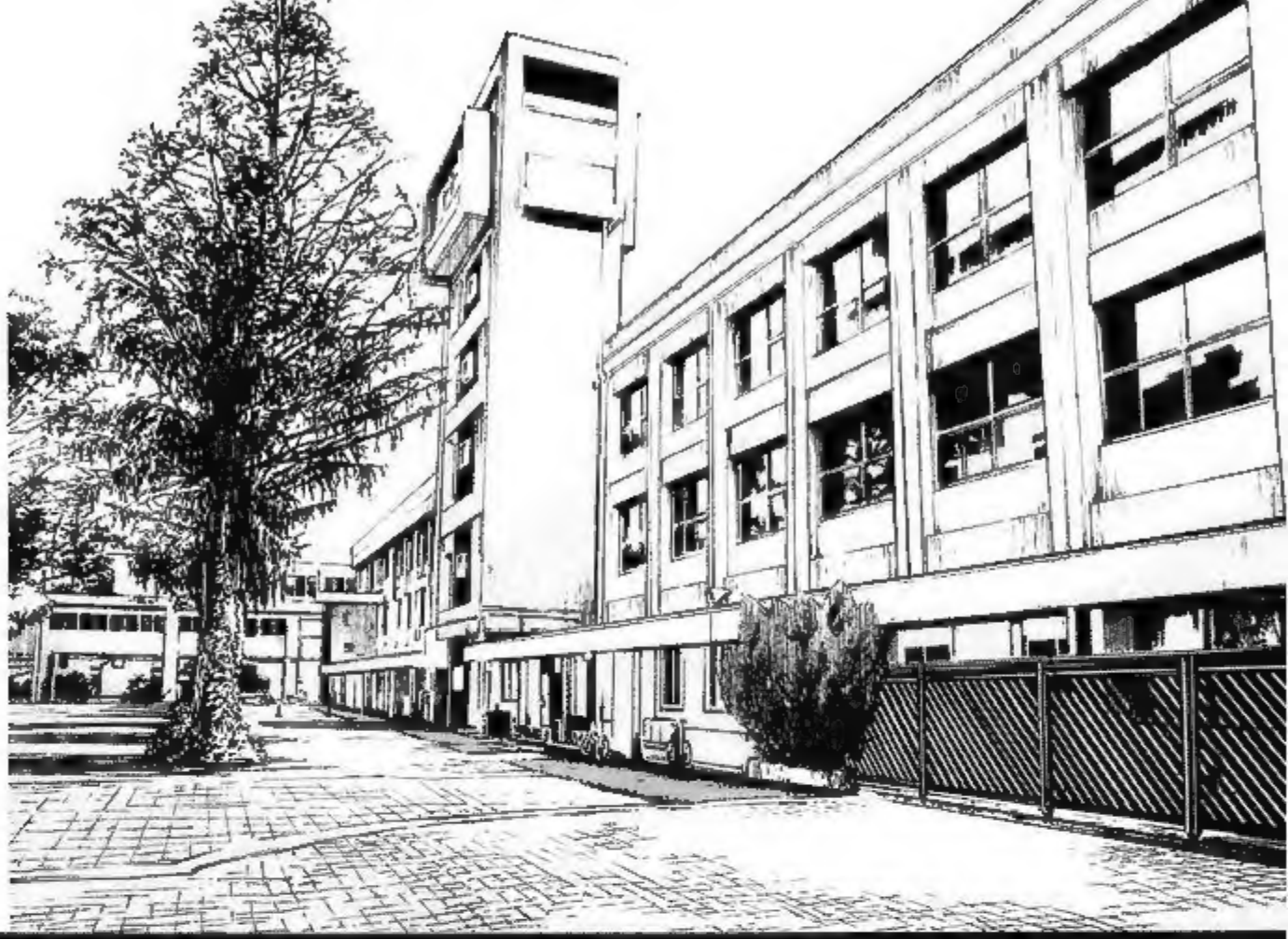
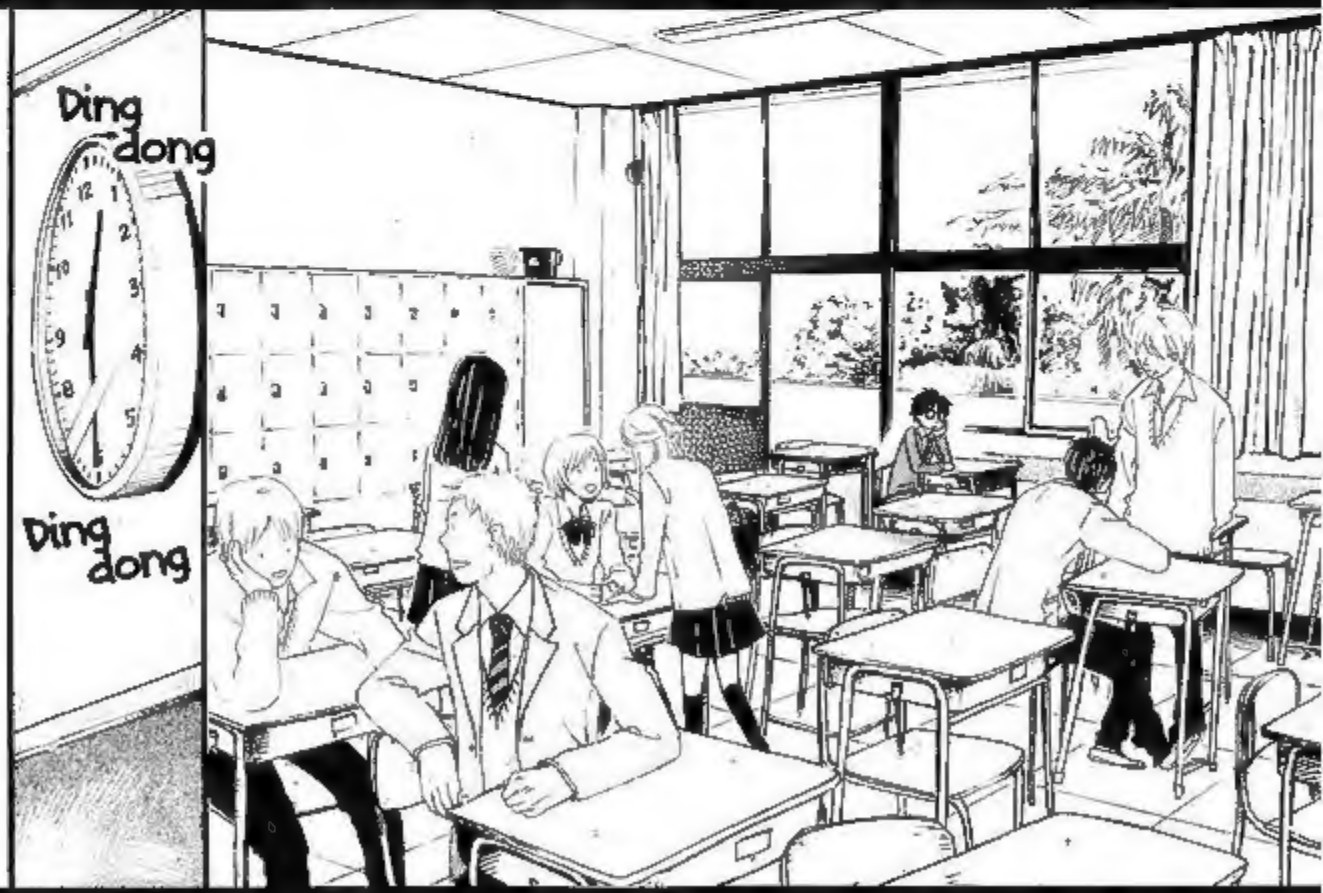
Chapter. 45
New Semester



I FIGURED IT WOULD HAPPEN BUT,



BEGINNING OF SECOND YEAR, IN MY NEW CLASS,
PROFESSOR HAYASHIDA NO LONGER TAUGHT US.

THE WORLD IS A FIELD TO PLAY ON!
THE BALL IS YOUR FRIEND!
taptaptap
I WON'T LOSE! THAT FRIED CHICKEN POTATO SALAD SANDWICH HAS MY NAME ON IT!
THEY'LL RUN OUT OF BIG GROUND MEAT SANDWICHES!!
HURRY!
DASH!!
LET'S SEE, LUNCH...
skoosh...
staaaaaaaaare
No way!
I'm telling you!
snicker
droop...
stink....
I...
SHOULD LEAVE.
WOW, WHO DOES THAT?
AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SKIPPING SCHOOL? FOR A GAME?
SHOGI IS THAT A VIDEO GAME?
ARE THEY SOME KIND OF SHUT IN?
PLAYING SHOGI OR SOMETHING, I DUNNO.
OLD PEOPLE PLAY?
YOU MEAN ON PURPOSE?
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
ISN'T SHOGI THAT THING
HEY, IS IT TRUE THAT PERSON GAVE UP THEIR SPOT?

IT SEEMS AS SOON AS OUR CLASS CHANGED, EVERYONE'S FALLEN INTO THEIR OWN GROUPS.
AND JUMPING INTO THE MIDDLE OF AN EXISTING GROUP? I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE OR THE SKILL TO PULL THAT OFF.
HOW SHOULD I GO ABOUT IT...?
NO, NO, MORE NORMAL...
IF I CAN PULL THAT OFF...
LIKE THAT?
HEY,
MIND IF I JOIN?
HEY,
CAN I EAT WITH YOU GUYS?
WHY CAN'T I DO THIS? WHO'S EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE WHO'S EATEN ALONE FOR 11 YEARS?
DARN
IT'S NO USE
I'LL SCREW IT UP. I'M POSITIVE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE MY RANK BATTLE IN 6 MONTHS, AND NEWCOMER'S BATTLE THAT I NEED TO FOCUS ON.
JUST 2 MORE LONELY YEARS.
THOUGH I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE TERRIBLE IF I KEPT EATING ALONE. THERE'S ONLY TWO MORE YEARS OF THIS AFTER ALL.

NIKAIDO'S NAME DID NOT GET DRAWN AT ALL.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, KIRIYAMA?!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO GET PICKED?!
I'M COMING OVER THERE!!!
Don't ask me!!

FOR THE RANK BATTLE, THERE ARE 34 PLAYERS IN MY C-1 LEAGUE RIGHT NOW.
FROM WITHIN THAT NUMBER TEN GAMES ARE ARRANGED BY LOTTERY.
ONLY THE TOP TWO PLAYERS ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEAGUE, B2.
SHOGI Hall
Shogi Hall

B Block
A Block
Nikaido
RIGHT HERE
Kiriyama
Isn't there supposed to be a limit on bad judgement?!
HEY, ISN'T IT A BIT SOON TO BE TALKING ABOUT THE FINALS?!
HEY NOW!?

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS IN THE NEWCOMER'S BATTLE...
IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT WE'RE IN SEPERATE BLOCKS.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KNOCK OUT EVERYONE IN OUR PATHS TO GET TO THE FINALS!
I'M ONLY SPEAKING THE TRUTH,
DON'T WAVER, KIRIYAMA!

L-LEGEND? AND WHAT'S THIS "OUR" NONSENSE?!
OH
UM
OK
SURE WHY NOT.
wiggle
wiggle
OUR LEGEND,
HAS ONLY
JUST BEGUN!
shimmer
hehe

WHAT I CAN DO RIGHT NOW, IS
THROUGH THE NEWCOMER BATTLE AND THE RANKING BATTLE
YEAH, GOTTA WORK HARD.

REALLY? WOW.
IT'S TRUE.
HEY PROFESSOR?
ALL I CAN DO IS...

nod

BY PIECE...
KEEP WORKING HARD FROM THE BEGINNING PIECE BY PIECE

thump
thump
thump
thump
WHAAAA?!
WHOOSH
uüz
uüz
HOLD ON DAMN IT!!
HEY, KIRIYAMA!!

OTHER THAN RUN AFTER THEM? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN I SEE MY PUPIL MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT,
DON'T GIVE ME THAT GARBAGE!
pant
pant
F-
FACE LIKE THAT?
WHAT KIND OF FACE WAS I MAKING?
KI-RI-YA-MA DAMN YOU KID!
Haaaa haaa wheeeeeze
Ack
sigh
cough cough
YOU CAN'T JUST ABANDON YOUR OTHER PUPILS LIKE THAT...
PROFESSOR ARE YOU OK?

YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF FRESHMEN, I'M A JUNIOR NOW, SHOULD YOU BE EATING WITH ME STILL?
IS THIS OKAY?
HMM? WHAT?
UM, SO...
YEAH, NO PROBLEM.
AAACK!
skritch skritch
LIKE THIS, YOU SQUIRT, LIKE THIS!

I WANT TO BE CHOSEN AT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOUR PROFESSOR.
BUT HOW COME YOU'RE COMEING HERE AGAIN KIRIYAMA?
NEW YEAR, NEW TERM, IT'S LIKE GETTING TO START FRESH.
IF YOU'RE NOT TRYING NOW, WHEN WILL YOU?
SO REALLY, MORE THAN CONCERN FOR ME, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR OWN VALUE DROPPING IF YOU DON'T.
AND I SEE YOU HANGING OUT ALONE AGAIN WITH THAT GLOOMY LOOK ON YOUR FACE, IT SCREAMS, "PROFESSOR COME HELP ME PLEASE!" DOESN'T IT?
YOU BARELY MADE THE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT LAST YEAR DUE TO "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES"
PROFESSOR...
munch munch

SO, KEEP DOING YOUR BEST.
I'M TELLING YOU, PROFESSOR.
IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO ENCOURAGE ME ANYMORE
YEAH, YOUR TEACHER'S BEEN THINKING.
YOU SHOULD MAKE A SHOGI CLUB.
S-
SHOGI CLUB?
WAIT,
WHAT?
IF YOU DO, I'LL BE THE CLUB ADVISOR. IT WON'T BE STRANGE FOR US TO HANG OUT THEN.
SO I'LL BE THE CLUB ADVISOR.
NO, BUT...
YOU CAN'T JUST...
TO FORM A "CLUB," YOU NEED 5 MEMBERS AND AN ADVISOR.
YOU JUST NEED TO FIND 4 MORE MEMBERS
NO, BUT...
FIND THEM?
JUST START LOOKING.
HOW DO I DO THAT?

UH,
NO
IT'S NOTHING
..
"CANT JUST"
Thorns
WHAT?
LOOKS LIKE HE REMEMBERED SOMETHING
Stare
Ah!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU,
I CAN'T JUST FI-
OH!

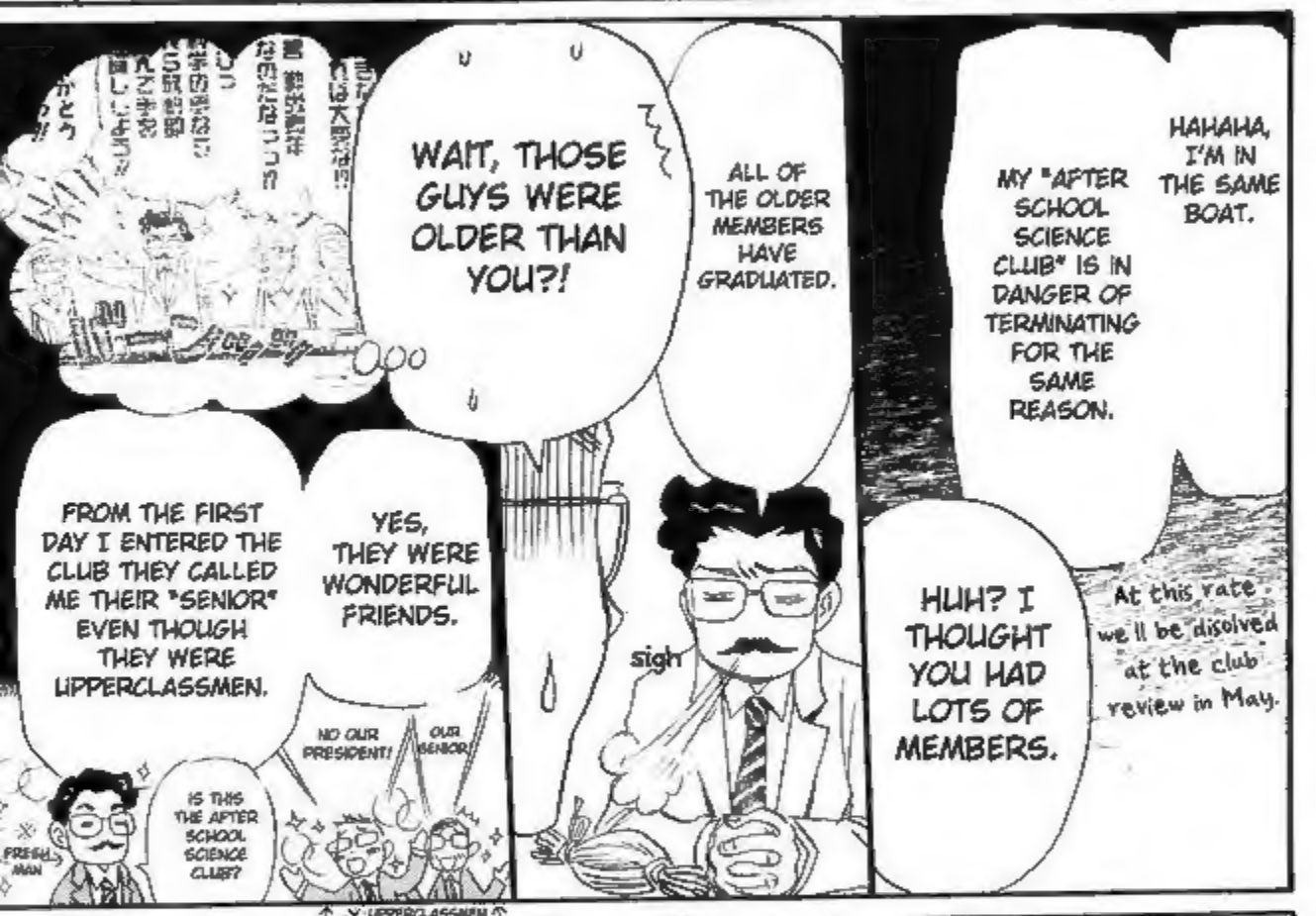
SO YOU COULD EAT ALONE IN THE STAIRWELL?
WAS IT
IN TRUTH, I-ALWAYS...
KIRIYAMA,
I DON'T THINK SO.
SO,
KIRIYAMA, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COME BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL?

JUST HOW MUCH IT HAD BEEN WEIGHING ON ME.
IT WAS THEN I REALIZED
.....
YEAH...
SO VERY...
HE WAS SO,
I THOUGHT OF THAT TIME, WHEN HE WENT FROM A LONER, TO MELTING
GROUP.
DIFFICULT AS TIME GOES ON.
IT'LL GET MORE
MORE
IF IT CONTINUES

PROF-ESSOR
WILL YOU REALLY BE THE ADVISOR
IF I ASK?
INCREDIBLY HAPPY
YOU BET.
SO THEN,
KIRIYAMA, YOU'LL HELP ME WITH MY GAME TOO?
HEH?
OH YEAH, SURE.
YES! I WAS WAITING FOR THAT!
FREE LESSONS FROM A PRO!
PROF-ESSOR,
I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT LET'S START SMALL...
THIS TIME, I'LL BEAT THAT PLAYER NAMED 4-DAN AMA IN THE INTERNET SHOGI LOUNGE!
THE NEXT DAY
N-
NO ONE...
WHY?
IS SHOGI THIS UNPOPULAR?
Everyone says "Shogi? Nah, not interested."
GOSSO.
NAH, IT'S NO FAULT OF YOURS.
I LOVE SHOGI!
AHH...
slump
ZUCCCCCH
WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST...
AH!
Bang
NOGUCHI !!
THAT'S RIGHT!

HAHAHA, CAN'T YOU TELL? WE'RE HARVESTING (?) SOME NATTO.
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING THIS TIME?
PROFESSOR HAYASHIDA, GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
Oh!
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
OH GOD, IT STINKS!!
Byuuuuuuun
HAHAHA! AN EXCELLENT QUESTION.
ANYWAY, WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THE STRAW?
HEY, YOU'RE EATING IT ALREADY ?!
WOW!
THAT'S GREAT NATTO!
Looks like he's likes it.
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
ha ha ha!
You really are like an old man.
Drrrrp
WOW
THAT WAS INFORMATIVE!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
WELL YOU BUNDLE THE SOY BEANS IN RICE STRAW AND STEAM THE BEANS AT 40 DEGREES CELSIUS FOR A DAY AND THE BACILLUS SUBTILLIS BRINGS OUT THE STICKYNESS OF THE BEANS AND SUPPORTS THE FERMENTATION.
NO, I MEAN WHY ARE YOU FERMENTING NATTO IN SCHOOL?!
Ha Ha Ha
NOGUCHI, DO YOU PLAY SHOGI?
OH
I FORGOT!
THE WHOLE REASON I CAME HERE!
Oh yeah!
Furthermore, what does a school need to be self-sufficient for?
When would that ever be needed?
HOLD ON, WHAT'S WITH THE TITLE? AND WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHO ARE YOU PRESENTING THIS TO?
CHING
Is a self- sustaining School Possible?
Noguchi Eisaku
IT'S FOR MY THESIS.
LAST YEAR, I GREW RICE UP ON THE ROOFTOP, AND THIS STRAW IS A PRODUCT OF THAT.

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A SHOGI CLUB AND CAN'T FIND FIVE MEMBERS FOR THE LIFE OF US!
OKAY!!
Finally there's one person!
Hahaha
IT'S A VERY COMPLICATED GAME.
SHOGI... I PLAYED IT AS A BOY WITH MY GRANDFATHER, BUT NOT MUCH.


WAIT, THOSE GUYS WERE OLDER THAN YOU?!
ALL OF THE OLDER MEMBERS HAVE GRADUATED.
sigh
FROM THE FIRST DAY I ENTERED THE CLUB THEY CALLED ME THEIR "SENIOR" EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE UPPERCLASSMEN.
YES, THEY WERE WONDERFUL FRIENDS.
FRESHMAN
IS THIS THE AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB?
NO OUR PRESIDENT!
OUR SENIOR
UPPERCLASSMEN
MY "AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB" IS IN DANGER OF TERMINATING FOR THE SAME REASON.
HAHAHA, I'M IN THE SAME BOAT.
HUH? I THOUGHT YOU HAD LOTS OF MEMBERS.
At this rate we'll be disolved at the club review in May.

HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE...
HM?
THAT'S IT!
BUT WITH ONLY FOUR MEMBERS LEFT, WE'RE DOOMED TO FADE AWAY...
UM, I'M NOT SURE THAT HAS MUCH TO DO WITH THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE...
(If I could even leave my thesis behind.
I WISH THERE WAS A WAY TO PASS THE WONDERS OF THESE SCIENCES ONTO THE YOUNGER STUDENTS...
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

AND SO THE "AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB" AND "AFTER SCHOOL SHOGI STUDY GROUP" MERGED, FORMING THE "SHOGI SCIENCES CLUB"

OH!!
YES!!
I SEE!!
ON THE WAY HOME,
SEE? HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU "RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING,
IT'S EASIER TO GET UP AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT"
THE SOLUTION WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
HE SAID, GRINNING ALL THE WAY.